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LIGHT AND AIRY.

The Fall.

The "factive" fly has ceased to tease.

And hushed in the mosquito's song

And people on such nights as these

May slumber sweetly slumber long

The autumn days are bright with sun.

And landscapes fair around us lie,

And inside and outside have begun

Their autumn clothes to make or buy.

The fruit upon the trees is ripe.

Which glads the urchin's heart, I ween;

He more he feels the sudden gripe

It used to give when it was green

The boys and girls now wander far.

Through woods the ripened nuts to seek;

And now's engaged the Thespian star

For seventy-five (or less) a week.

Oh! glorious season of the fall.

How pleasant are thy sounds and scenes!

Thy advent gives delight to all—

Except the man of little means.

What cares he for thy cloudless skies.

Thy landscapes fair which thrill the soul?

Poor man, before the prices rise.

He must say in his wood and coal!

—Boston Courier.

His Custody Fully Satisfied.

Small Man (on railway train, writing letter

to his wife)—It would afford you some amusement,

my dear, if you could see the freckles

on my face, long, lean, gambler shanked, knock

kneed, sneaking, impudent, ill bred, half

baked specimen of a backwoods gawky that

is looking over my shoulder as I write this.

Large Man on same (staring)—You

lie, you little scound!

Small Man (turning round)—Beg pardon,

sir; are you speaking to me?

Large Man (confusedly)—Y—no! No! I

didn't say anything. I wasn't speaking. I—

Small man resumes his writing. Large

man goes back to the rear platform of the

last car on the train and relieves his mind by

swearing volubly as the flying landscape.

—Chicago Tribune.

About the Sign of It.

Brown and Robinson had made a bet.

"Well," said Brown, "how shall we settle it,

leave it to the editor of The Eagle to decide?

I never read the paper, but I suppose that'll

do as well as any other."

"Nor I either," said Robinson. "I haven't

seen a copy of it for ten years, but anything

that suits you suits me."

So Brown writes: "Dear sir, to decide a

bet, will you please take me and so forth."

"There," said Brown, "I shall sign it."

"Sign it 'Constant Reader,'"—The Epoch.

A Kiss in a Dance.

The maiden sat in a light canoe,

Afloat on a mountain lake;

And a mad idea shot wildly through

The brain of her lover (who sat there too)

That he, in that soft moonlight canoe,

A stolen kiss would take.

Now the maiden sat there, unaware

Of the plot that he had hatched;

And the mountain breezes played with her hair,

And fanned her cheek, and her brow so fair.

As she sat there still, quite unaware

Of the kiss soon to be snatched.

Then the lover awaited a real good chance

To capture the longed for kiss.

When, watching the wimpling wavelets dance,

She turned her head with a quick, shy glance,

And leaning back, she gave him a chance

That was really too good to miss.

So he bent to meet her, and tried to steal

The kiss that he turned to get.

But he bent so quick, in his ardent zeal,

That the crafty wretch like a whirling wheel,

And he missed the kiss that he tried to steal,

And they both got very wet.

—Journal of Education.

Outraged to the Last.

Judge (concluding a sentence)—And you

will then be hanged by the neck until you

are dead, dead, dead.

Condemned Man—Your honor, I should

think that a man in your position would

avoid superfluity of language.

"What do you mean?"

"There is no necessity for the repetition

of the word dead; in fact, there is no necessity

for the use of the word at all, for it follows

that if I am hanged by the neck death must

ensue; therefore—

"Silence, remove the prisoner."—Lincoln

Journal.

A Sure Sign.

Two little girls were heard one day dis-

cussing the merits of a certain school teacher.

"She ain't a lady," "cause she taught a col-

ored school once!" was the remark of little

Helen.

"She is, too, a lady," insisted Maria.

"No, she ain't, 'cause her pug dog wears

jee' name ribbon all day!"

"She is, too, a lady. I know it, 'cause she

told her sister, an' her sister told me!"—

Youth's Companion.

The Clerk's Diplomacy.

Shoe Dealer (to clerk)—William, why did

you insist upon selling to that old gentleman

who just went out a pair of small, soft shoes,

when he called for large cowhide boots?

"Well—er—"

"I insist upon knowing."

"The fact is, I call on his daughter quite

frequently in the evening."—Chicago Tri-

bune.

The Truth of the Matter.

She waved her graceful hand to me,